

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-21. (Cancelled)

Claim 22. (Currently amended) A method for diagnosing ~~or~~ ~~monitoring~~ multiple sclerosis (MS) in a mammal consisting of the steps:

(a) obtaining a sample of body fluid from said mammal, wherein said body fluid ~~includes~~ is selected from the group consisting of, blood, blood products, serum, plasma and saliva;

(b) ~~performing~~ providing an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) which ~~[[binds]]~~ has immobilized thereon myelin basic protein (MBP);

~~(c) and characterized by utilizing mixing~~ heparin with said body fluid prior to carrying out the ELISA to reduce non-specific charge interactions with MBP, thereby increasing sensitivity of said assay ~~to about 77%;~~

~~[[c]]~~ (d) determining a level of at least one autoantibody selected from the group consisting of anti-MBP IgG, or a combination of anti-MBP IgM and anti-MBP IgM ~~and a mixture~~

thereof specific for said ~~at least one autoantibody~~ immobilized myelin basic protein in said sample; and,

[[(d)]] (e) comparing said level of said at least one autoantibody ~~wherein said level is statistically significant, whereby a diagnosis or monitoring of MS in said mammal is made with a specificity of about 95% and a likelihood ratio (LR) value of about 14.8 with statistically significant levels thereof known to be indicative of diseased versus normal individuals, wherein a diagnosis of MS in said mammal is made.~~

Claim 23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said mammal is a human.

Claim 24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 22, wherein said diagnosis ~~or monitoring~~ is carried out on a single sample.

Claim 25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 22, wherein said diagnosis ~~or monitoring~~ is carried out on multiple samples such that at least one analysis is carried out on a first sample and at least another analysis is carried out on a second sample.

Claim 26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein said first and second samples are obtained at different time periods.